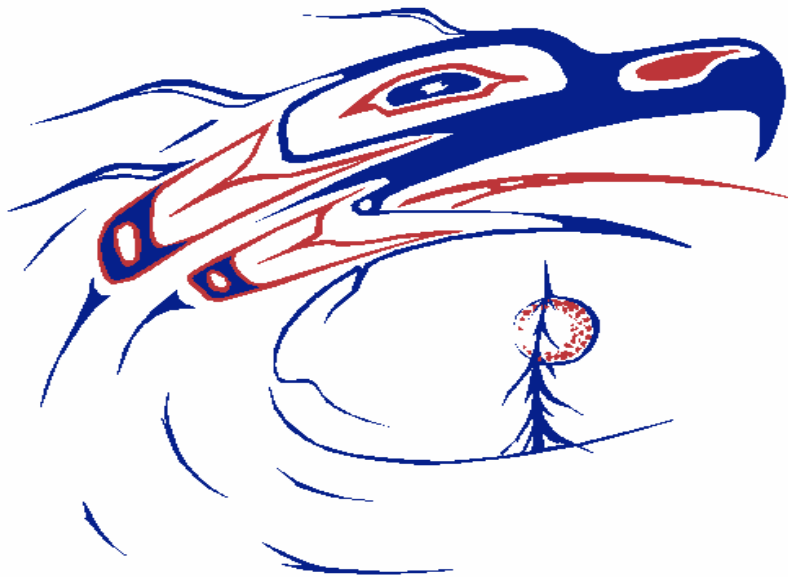# Summary Report

of the

Tribal Technology Visioning Conference

"Bridging the Digital Divide"

Prepared by the

Governor's Office

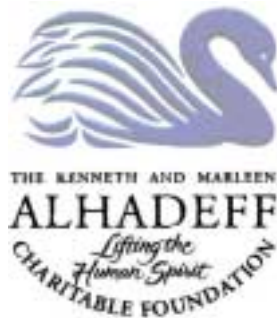of Indian Affairs

Kimberly Craven,
Executive Director
Telephone: (360) 753-2411
kimberlyc@goia.wa.gov
Andrea Alexander,
Deputy Director
Telephone: (425) 673-0749
andreagoto@hotmail.com
Heather Peters,
Office Assistant
Telephone: (360) 753-2411
heatherp@goia.wa.gov

Held May 1-3, 2002 at the Quinault Beach Resort

*The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors*

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I. TECHNOLOGY VISIONING CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Tribal Technology Visioning Conference was held on May 1-3, 2002 at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores, Washington. The conference featured Tribal Technologies—a tribally driven initiative to help tribes bridge the "Digital Divide." Tribal Technologies is a new project of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Council (ATNI-EDC) and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA). The goal is to provide tribes with access to information technology, combined with the knowledge and skills to apply technology tools to address economic development, healthcare, environmental, educational, and all other aspects of community life, that are needed to preserve and protect tribal culture, language and sovereignty. Tribal Technologies will initially focus on tribes in Washington State and establish a model initiative that can be replicated throughout the Northwest, the nation, and beyond.

The Technology Visioning Conference sponsors include:

- ❖ Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- ❖ Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation
- ❖ Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development
- ❖ University of Washington Tribal Connections Project on Tele-medicine
- ❖ Tulalip Tribes
- ❖ Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation
- ❖ Stone Soup
- ❖ Kongsgaard/Goldman Foundation
- ❖ NoaNet
- ❖ Zebra Computers

Attendees included tribal leaders, tribal technology staff, urban Indian organizational staff and tribal educators, as well as state agency staff and directors, foundation representatives, and state and federal elected officials.

II.   GENERAL SESSIONS SUMMARY

A. VIDEO CALL WITH SENATORS INOUYE, CANTWELL AND MURRAY

The Tribal Technology Visioning Conference began the first day with an interactive video conference between the conference attendees and Senators Daniel Inouye, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, who participated from Washington DC. The video conference was facilitated by the Washington State University (WSU) Center to Bridge the Digital Divide. WSU was able to provide downlinks to five other remote sites across Washington State.

Senator Inouye began by acknowledging the "digital divide" between urban and rural areas and the adverse effect it has had on American Indian tribes. He advised the tribes to review the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) June 2000 Indian Policy Statement as it relates to telecommunications access to tribal reservations. In addition, Senator Inouye felt it might be time to have an "Indian Desk" at the FCC.

Senator Murray followed by expressing her dismay that many areas of the State of Washington are without telecommunications access. "For tribes to continue their expansion into self-governance, they will need these connections," she told the attendees. Senator Murray also announced the new ".gov" prefix that tribes may now use. In addition, she outlined bills that she is co-sponsoring that will improve high-speed access at the tribal reservations.

Senator Cantwell wrapped up the initial comments by outlining two important advantages to better broadband access: 1) better education through the use of new technologies, and 2) better health care through the use of telemedicine technologies. She emphasized that it is very important for tribes to have the same tools and access available to them as the general population.

All three senators agreed that it is vitally important to use and have access to technology to increase economic development at the tribal level.

Issues Expressed:

- ✓ Difficult to get local utilities to expand services to the reservations.
- ✓ Several layers of bureaucracy protect those that own telecommunication services.

Resources
Federal Communications Commission: http://www.fcc.gov/indians/
FCC Policy Statement on Establishing a Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes: http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OGC/Orders/2000/fcc00207.doc
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: http://indian.senate.gov/nsindex.html

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B. GATES FOUNDATION'S NATIVE AMERICAN ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Jessica Dorr, Project Coordinator for the Native American Access to Technology Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, described the process to increase access to technology to tribes located in the Southwest. Project staff spent a year with tribal leaders and librarians in an effort to determine goals. It was important to the Gates Foundation that local communities help determine what they wanted to accomplish.

Providing Internet connectivity was one of the most challenging issues to deal with throughout the process. Jessica stated that access to technology can mean many different things including:

- ❖ Lack of hardware/software
- ❖ Costs of infrastructure
- ❖ Lack of broadband connectivity
- ❖ Lack of sustainable support
- ❖ Lack of technology training and education

She said the most successful grants for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are those that:

- ❖ Represent the needs of the community
- ❖ Are used by multiple groups
- ❖ Ensure public access to the technology
- ❖ Include training
- ❖ Keep computers fully operational
- ❖ Allow opportunities for content creation

C. TRIBAL TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

Andrea Alexander, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, outlined the efforts underway by the Tribal Technologies project. Among the project goals are to:

- ❖ Bridge the "Digital Divide" for tribes
- ❖ Provide basic information technology tools
- ❖ Achieve basic core competency in information technology
- ❖ Build infrastructure that will serve future tribal technology needs
- ❖ Pilot a project for 29 tribes in Washington state and for the urban Indian population
- ❖ Establish a model for other tribes throughout the Northwest, the nation, and beyond.

Tribal Technologies will be phased in over a three-year period. The three phases with associated activities are:

Phase 1: Assess and Educate

- ✓ Build the ATNI EDC Tribal Technologies Team
- ✓ Fundraise and conduct outreach activities aimed at program implementation
- ✓ Map the statewide technology infrastructure of tribes
- ✓ Provide individual tribal consultations
- ✓ Develop tribal access to telephone service
- ✓ Conduct tribal technology assessments
- ✓ Complete individual tribal technology plans

- ✓ Engage tribal leaders in the Visioning Conference
- ✓ Engage in legal and policy analysis and monitoring activities

Phase 2: Install and Train

- ✓ Conduct program outreach activities at ATNI conferences
- ✓ Support fundraising effort for individual tribal infrastructure investments
- ✓ Facilitate connections to private and public-sector partners
- ✓ Coordinate and develop training and distance learning for each tribe
- ✓ Evaluate tribal learning centers at each tribe
- ✓ Provide technical support to implement sustainable individual telecommunications plans
- ✓ Provide continued legal and policy review and monitoring
- ✓ Conduct an annual program evaluation
- ✓ Produce annual program and financial reports

Phase 3: Build Sustainability and Institutionalize

- ✓ Continue to facilitate the effective use of technology by individual tribes
- ✓ Produce a final report for project partners and Indian Country
- ✓ Publish articles on program effectiveness and lessons learned
- ✓ Document effective technology outreach strategies
- ✓ Continue fundraising activities as needed

Deputy Director Alexander stressed how Tribal Technologies will impact key tribal issues such as economic development, healthcare, environmental, educational, and all other aspects of community life, that are needed to preserve and protect tribal culture and sovereignty. She noted that the many partners who will work together through Tribal Technologies can help tribes overcome technology challenges and succeed in helping to bridge and erase the digital divide in Indian Country.

D. FOUNDATION ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The last day of the Tribal Technology Visioning Conference included a valuable roundtable discussion with staff from some of the largest foundations and grantors in the country. It was an opportunity for conference attendees to hear what foundations are looking for in projects and proposals.

Here are some of the ideas shared by panel members:

Ken Thompson, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
http://www.gatesfoundation.org; phone: 206.709.3568

Ken is the program manager for the Community Access to Technology Program. Ken expressed that sometimes small projects can produce the most impressive results and makes a significant impact in communities. Some of the considerations Ken has when evaluating proposals are

- ✓ Is there a thorough understanding of how technology will help achieve important goals and priorities of an organization or community?
- ✓ What will be the effect on the people gaining access to technology?
- ✓ What are the community's strengths and how will Gates funds help expand capacity?
- ✓ What is the grant applicant's commitment to the sustainability of the project?

Peter Berliner, Paul G. Allen Foundations

http://www.pgafoundations.com; phone: 206.342.2140

Paul Berliner said he agreed with the comments made by Ken Thompson. He added that the Paul Allen Foundation is most interested in projects that:

- ✓ Create change in the way we learn.
- ✓ Use technology as a tool for reaching the end result.
- ✓ Are collaborative in nature.
- ✓ Say they will happen regardless of funding approval.

Dick Larmen, State of Washington Department of Trade and Economic Development
http://www.oted.wa.gov/index.htm

Dick Larmen discussed the programs available to tribes from the Department of Trade and Economic Development. He advised the attendees that tribes are now eligible for Community Economic Revitalization Board funds.

Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
http://edd.cted.wa.gov/cac/cerb/index.html
CERB is the state's only economic development infrastructure program targeted to support business and industrial job growth in partnership primarily with rural communities. CERB provides low-interest loans or, in unique circumstances, grants to local governments to help finance the construction of public facility projects required by private sector expansions and job creations.

Wes Lannen, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/index.html, phone: 360.666.2741

Wes Lannen discussed the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Program. Specifically, he suggested tribes look to the RUS program for projects such as distance learning and telemedicine.

Heard at the Conference..............

"The digital gap is as wide as the distance from the Earth to the moon."

- Jerry Meninick, Councilman, Yakama Nation -

*"Technology....learn how to use it as a management tool and you'll
grow by leaps and bounds"*

and...."We're not asking for free connectivity. All we want is access."

- John McCoy, Tulalip Tribes -

"I am confident we can help close the gap."

- Senator Patty Murray -

"Kids love their language and culture and put it all together through the love of technology"

- **Sheryl Fryberg, Indian Education Coordinator, Tulalip Elementary School –**

Conference Dinner Table Topic Ideas..............

Technology for Elders

❖ Involve community members (especially elders) through language and history preservation.
❖ Use grandchildren to help elders learn about technology.
❖ Address issues of privacy regarding the distribution of tribal histories on the Internet or on CDs.

Topic	Facilitator
Telephone Consumer Education	Tracy Rascon, ATNI-EDC
Tech Training for Tribal Staff	Randell Harris, SPIPA
Community Technology Centers	Jennifer Khow, Evergreen State University
Tribal Telco Creation, Legislation	Cheryl Johnson, ATNI-EDC
Content, Security and Privacy	Connie Michner, DIS
Technology Access Justice Issues	James King and Fawn Sharp
Using Technology for Cultural Preservation	Valerie Fast Horse, Coeur D'Alene
Tech Assessments	Bob Hartley, NOANET
Emergency Preparedness	Cherri Crowell, Suquamish Tribe
Funding Your Project	Tina Cohen, CTED, Karen Bailor, USDA
Technology for Elders	Walter Jackson, Quileute Tribe/Jessica Dorr
Internships for Youth	Lisa Pemberton-Butler, GOIA/Wambli Zephier

III. BREAK-OUT SESSIONS SUMMARY

The second day of the **Tribal Technology Visioning Conference** consisted of several breakout sessions to discuss in further detail the many issues surrounding technology and tribes.   The following section provides highlights from the sessions, including lessons learned and issues discussed.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1:   EDUCATION – TULALIP READING PROGRAM

Ray Fryberg, Tulalip Tribe
David Cort, Teacher, Tulalip Elementary School
Jamacia Keeline, Tulalip Elementary School Student
Paco James, Tulalip Elementary School Student

Jennifer James, Tulalip Elementary School Student
Sheryl Fryberg, Indian Education Coordinator,
Tulalip Elementary School

The education breakout session was a big hit at the conference. It included a demonstration of the work developed by the Tulalip elementary school students. The fifth grade advanced computer class develops and maintains its own website. In addition, students created a CD book modeled after the popular Native story *Owl and His Wife, Frog*. The book includes animated graphics, language translations, and exercises.

The Tulalip Tribes have long seen the importance of education. Recently, the Tulalip Council decided to donate funds to the local school district to develop a computer center.   It was their hope that this would help in the fight against poor school attendance, student behavioral issues and high dropout rates. As Sheryl Fryberg said, "we want our students to be bi-cultural warriors so they can walk in both worlds."

David Cort and his students walked through their website and then demonstrated their recent CD productions. By the end of the session, the talents, excitement, and dedication of the students was apparent to everyone. David shared how much his students "love their language and their culture" and how "technology has helped" to make this possible.

Lessons Learned

✓ Technology is a great tool to encourage children to learn and to help regain tribal culture.
✓ Grade school children are fully capable of learning complex web software programs.
✓ Children enjoy the challenge created with the use of technology as a learning tool.
✓ Dedicated teachers and parents, along with committed tribes make a difference in whether the use of technology in schools is a success or not.

Issues to Think About

✓ The Tulalip Tribes gave up on grants and eventually had to donate $169,000 of their own money to the local school district to ensure completion of a first-class computer center.
✓ Most tribes do not have broadband access to the reservation.

Resources

✓ Tulalip Elementary School: http://www.msvl.wednet.edu/elementary/tulalip/home.html
✓ Tulalip Technology Leap: http://www.tulaliptechleap.com/

Valarie Fast Horse, Coeur D'Alene Tribal Council, Director,
John Hartman, GIS/Internet Applications, Coeur D'Alene Tribe

The Coeur D'Alene Tribe has taken technology and used it to create exciting cultural site maps that include video tours of each site complete with pictures and descriptions by a tribal elder. The site is created through the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) software and various interactive media software.

In addition, the tribe has implemented the following projects that use technology to further the cultural awareness of tribal members and the general public.

Photo Archive Project – includes digitizing tribal related photographs. The tribe is able to borrow, or in some cases, take equipment directly to the location of the picture and then record it for posterity.

Tribal Ethno-Botony Project – includes cataloging of native plants, their names and uses and putting all together on an interactive site or CD.

Language Lookup Project – includes placing tribal language words with spelling and audio pronunciation in a database accessed through the Internet.

Lessons Learned

✓ GIS systems can be easily learned and used by tribes to map valuable cultural sites as well as the more common uses of mapping natural resources and geographic boundaries.
✓ Technology is a great tool to spread culture knowledge across a wide audience.
✓ Technology allows tribes to capture information and knowledge that many tribal elders have. It also involves elders in sharing their information and feeling more connected to their community.

Issues to Think About

✓ Can be expensive. Systems to develop cultural maps and other cultural sites can start at 10K and run upwards from there.

Resources

✓ Coeur D'Alene Tribe: http://www.cdatribe.org/index.html
✓ Alaska Native Knowledge Network: http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/oral.html
✓ GIS Links: http://www.gislinx.com/ http://www.gisportal.com

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Mike Messenger, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
John Hollowed, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

John Hollowed, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), described three technological advances that have benefited the NWIFC. They are:

1. Use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software.
2. Use of teleconferences.
3. Use of scanning and digitization.

As noted in other breakout sessions, the use of GIS software has had an enormously positive impact for tribes and tribal organizations. It has helped the NWIFC in Integrated Resource Management (IRM) planning and in efforts to create sustainable fisheries.

In addition, the NWIFC has used teleconferencing to save time and money. NWIFC tribal members are spread throughout the Washington state and, in the past, time and money were wasted on meetings to discuss and negotiate important issues. In effect, the distance between tribes has been shrunk due to the technologies of teleconferencing.

John described efforts underway to digitize the legal documents associated with U.S. v Washington, the landmark treaty case better known as the Boldt decision. Most of the pre-1995 legal documents were in paper form and would easily fill a small meeting room. Through the efforts of digitization, tribes now have access to these documents. John said the NWIFC also has plans to create a "multi-media virtual library" to show news and video clips from the past and present.

Lessons Learned

✓ Scanning and Digitization have given tribes access to vast amounts of legal documents.
✓ Integrated resource management (IRM) is a planning and decision making process that coordinates resource use so that the long term sustainable benefits are optimized and conflicts among users are minimized. IRM brings together all resource groups rather than each working in isolation to balance the economic, environmental, and social requirements of society. IRM includes planning for minerals, forests, recreation, wilderness, energy, wildlife, and parks.

Issues to Think About

✓ Initial costs of technology for environmental programs.

Resources

✓ GPS World: http://www.gpsworld.com/gpsworld/
✓ USGS GIS Info: http://www.usgs.gov/research/gis/title.html
✓ NWIFC: http://nwifc.wa.gov/

Madonna Peltier-Yawakie, Anishanabee Turtle Island Communication
Cheryl Johnson, Lummi Nation

Madonna Peltier-Yawakie discussed the disparities in telecommunications access between urban and rural areas, especially tribal reservations. She discussed the 1934 Communications Act and the 1996 Telecommunications Act and highlighted some of the following provisions:

1. Quality and rates should be accessible at just, reasonable, and affordable rates.
2. Specific and predictable support mechanisms should be in place regardless of location.
3. Schools, health care and libraries should have access to advanced telecommunications services.

Cheryl Johnson, Lummi Nation, spoke of the Lummi Telecommunications Feasibility Study underway to conduct a field survey that:

1. Identifies and defines technical solutions to support Lummi economic development.
2. Reviews and make recommendations regarding regulatory agreements through tribal lands.
3. Identifies private/public sector funding options.

Lessons Learned

✓ Telephone Subscriber Level Penetration
  National   *94.5%*
  Low Income   *87.6%*
  Tribes   *47%*
✓ Tribes need to assess the telecommunication needs of the community. Infrastructure not IT or MIS internal systems.
✓ Telecommunications infrastructure is extremely important to economic development on tribal reservations.
✓ Tribes need to assess existing right of way easements, codes and ordinances and establish tribe as regulator of telecom services
✓ The solution for land based tribes may be to own and operate their own telecom company to provide basic phone service and advanced services.
✓ This concept is not new – the farmers have done this and there is no reason why this can't work in rural reservation lands.
✓ For tribes with no land base there needs to be resources to develop a solution for them.   Funds or support mechanism for tribes to develop partnerships or alliances with existing service providers

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Issues to Think About

- ✓ Tribes need to develop technology jobs to keep young adults from leaving reservations.
- ✓ The Telecommunications Act of 1996 calls for utilities to provide services to tribes. Tribal leaders may need to put pressure on the FCC as suggested by Senator Inouye.
- ✓ Senator Inouye also said to inform his office if tribes were having problems getting results from the FCC. There is significant investment needed to purchase or develop infrastructure so that tribes can compete in the world economy.
- ✓ Land base of tribes
- ✓ Status of right of ways and easements on tribal lands
- ✓ Regulatory authority of tribes
- ✓ Eligible Telecommunication Carrier (ETC) Status
- ✓ Need to develop pool of funds for tribes to do assessments

Resources

- ✓ ATNI Telephone Assistance Program: http://www.atniedc.com/index.htm
- ✓ USDA Rural Utilities RTB: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/rtb/rtb.htm
- ✓ CoBank Communications Financing: http://www.cobank.com/services/cebgintropg.html
- ✓ National Telecommunications and
- ✓ Information Administration: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/
- ✓ FCC Universal Service Guide: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/opadhome/uniserve/univweb.htm
- ✓ Senate Indian Affairs Committee: http://indian.senate.gov/nsindex.html
- ✓ Digital River http://www.3rc.org/projects/project5.html
- ✓ Economic Development Administration http://www.doc.gov/eda
- ✓ Turtle Island Communications, Inc http://www.turtleislandcom.com

John McCoy, Tulalip Tribe
Rebecca Johnston, National Congress of American Indians

Rebecca Johnston outlined the cooperative agreement between the General Services Administration and the Department of the Interior that will allow tribes to use the Internet domain name suffix identifying them as governmental entities. The tribes would use the ".gov" designation as opposed to ".com" or ".org." If a tribe chooses to register a domain name under the new designation, its domain name would be www.tribalname-nsn.gov. The "nsn" acronym stands for Native Sovereign Nation.

John McCoy emphasized the importance of having a purpose for the use of technology. He noted that if technology is used correctly, it can be a valuable tool to strengthen tribal sovereignty. He described the **Tulalip Technology Leap Program** that started eight years ago in an effort to *"provide exemplary technical support, infrastructure development and technical education to tribal members and employees."*

John stressed the importance of conducting a full technology needs assessment before making investments in new technology. He recommended assessing governmental services first, especially financial systems. He also stated: "Once a design and implementation plan is developed, stay the course and fund it."

Lessons Learned

✓ Tribes can now use the ".gov" designation for registering tribal domain names. Tribes can register their tribal sites at the following web location: www.gov-registration.gov.

Issues to Think About

✓ Tribes should conduct comprehensive technology needs assessments before implementing technology projects or making technology investments.

Resources

✓ NCAI Digital Clearinghouse website: http://www.indiantech.org/
✓ NCAI Digital Divide Report:

http://www.ncai.org/main/pages/newsreleases/NCAI%20Telecom%20Policy%20Report%20Final.pdf

✓ Falling Through the Net: Defining
   The Digital Divide Report: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fttn99/contents.html
✓ Tulalip Technology Leap: http://www.tulaliptechleap.com/
✓ Self-Governance: http://www.lummi-nsn.org/selfgov/

Roy Shali, UW Tribal Connections Program
Dave Fuller, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Donner Ellsworth, Spokane Tribal Community College

Dave Fuller, of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, discussed how his tribe is using science and technology to track and address community health issues. Specifically, he demonstrated the use of technology to track water quality within the tribal watershed. In the past, it use to take an entire station wagon to cart around the equipment needed to process water samples. Now the equipment can be strapped on the back of a technician. Water samples can be gathered, data immediately processed and downloaded, and the position locked via a global positioning system device.

Once back in the office, Dave can process the information via his desktop Geographical Information System (GIS) software and place it on a map that, through various modes, will analyze the data. The processing of data and the use of GIS software to create analytical maps has literally saved months of time that used to be developed manually. In the case of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the information collected led to the correction and expansion of wetland areas previously mapped manually by state agencies. The Tribe feels this wetland expansion will lead to cleaner water and a better ecosystem.

Donner Ellsworth, Spokane Tribal Community College, then spoke of the use of technology in the effort to "get tribal colleges off the ground." He said that technology is a valuable tool in establishing extended learning programs on tribal reservations. In addition, it was noted that there is a need for more tribal members in the health care field and that more funds are needed for student scholarships.

Lessons Learned

✓ Technology has become portable, allowing easy collection of information from the field.
✓ Different groups are all vying for the same resources; technology can help give tribes the edge necessary their Integrated Resource Management Process plans.

Issues to Think About

✓ A significant investment is needed to purchase and install technology hardware and software that allows for portable and faster data collection and analysis.
✓ How can the tribes work with colleges and universities to train tribal students to act as consultants on tribal related research and planning?

Resources

✓ Telemedicine and eHealth: http://www.atmeda.org/ehealth/ehealth.htm
✓ Alaska Telemedicine Project: http://www.telemedicine.alaska.edu/
✓ GPS: http://www.gpsworld.com/gpsworld/
✓ UW Tribal Connections Project: http://www.tribalconnections.org/
✓ USDA Distance Learning and
  Telemedicine Program Grants: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm

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Allen McCloskey, Makah Tribal Planning Director
Bud Denny, Makah Tribal Planner
Nathan Tyler, Makah Tribal Council
Frank Ordway, NPower

The need for a community wide technology was identified in 1999 after the Makah Tribal Council decided that they needed to network their government complex (administration building) in order to provide their 180 tribal employees with equal and timely access to internet information. The tribe also wanted to decrease internet fees paid to the local telephone company, develop access to cell phone coverage and increase their ability to communicate internally and externally.

The tribe placed this need on their WA CERT list but did not see progress until a chance meeting happened with GOIA and ATNI EDC in March of 2002. Staff from GOIA and ATNI EDC met with Npower, an organization that provides technology services to the nonprofit community. Npower agreed to partner with Tribal Technologies to provide already tested assessment tools and training systems to the project. A decision was made to conduct a pilot assessment with one tribe that could be featured at the visioning conference. CTED'S resources supported NPower's work on this pilot. The Makah Tribe was selected for the pilot based on a number of factors:

a.   This need had been listed on their WA CERT list for three years, so it was clearly a tribal council and political priority;
b.   The Tribe was located in a remote, rural area;
c.   The Makah Tribe committed its planning department to staff the process;
d.   The Makah Tribal Council demonstrated immediate interest and passed a resolution supporting the process just one week after a request was made to the council;
e.   The tribe agreed to a community wide approach and to participate at the Tribal Technology Visioning conference.

Next Steps:

✓ Complete Technical assessment
✓ Complete public survey work
✓ Create list of possible projects to address community needs
✓ Complete budgetary and dependency design of projects
✓ Prioritize investment
✓ Pursue funding resources to implement plan

Lessons Learned

✓ It is very important to involve tribal communities and leaders in assessment process.
✓ Input from tribal councils is needed from the beginning.
✓ The process for conducting tribal technology assessments should be uniform, while allowing for individual community needs.
✓ Communication and roles of project partners must be clarified through out the entire process.
✓ Capacity and information must stay at the local level!
✓ Use local tribal members to help organize community meetings.

Issues to Think About

✓ It would be helpful to post the assessment process on a website.
✓ It would be best if all the tribes in Washington State could have technology assessments conducted at the same time.

Resources

✓ Mtcplan@olypen.org
✓ NPower www.Npower.org
✓ Frank@Npower.org

James King, Access to Justice Technology Project
Steve Wintermute, NW Inter-Tribal Court System
Fawn Sharp, Quinault Tribal Attorney

Steve Wintermute with the NW Inter-Tribal Court System described the effort required to move the tribal court office system into the technology age—changing from stand-alone PCs to a networked system that allowed member tribes to access court records, documents, and forms. Steve emphasized the importance of training and support in any computer network implementation.

James King of the Access to Justice Technology Project described his organization's mission:

> *To create a body of enforceable fundamental principles to ensure that current and future technology both increases opportunities and eliminates barriers to access to and effective utilization of the justice system, thereby improving the quality of justice for all persons in Washington state.*

James noted that much has been said and written domestically and internationally about what has come to be called the "Digital Divide." The Access to Justice Project promotes the use of the rule of law as an essential way to move to a less divided, more equitable society and world. Accessible quality justice for all individuals and groups is a recognized worldwide value. Meaningful access to justice can and does empower people to be part of creating their own just societies. The Access to Justice Technology Bill of Rights will be an important contribution to that never-ending effort.

Lessons Learned

✓ Use of technology is great for sharing of data and documents. However, training and support is instrumental in the success of any project.

Issues to Think About

✓ Cross-jurisdictional sharing of data between tribal systems and state or counties is not always available.

Resources

✓ Access to Justice Technology   http://www.atjtechbillofrights.com/
✓ Northwest Intertribal Court System: http://firms.findlaw.com/nics/

Randall Harris, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
Jennifer Khow, The Evergreen State College
James Smith, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

This session dealt with the various models and strengths of Community Technology Centers (CTC). CTC's have been successfully used to:

1. Increase computer literacy and skills,
2. Provide a community-based strategy to expand job skills and employment opportunities, and
3. Facilitate and strengthen community connections.

The Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute (housed at The Evergreen State College) operates the Community Technology Centers Program, which is a partnership of four Washington tribes and NIARI. Each tribe operates a local CTC on its reservation through a U.S. Department of Education funded program.

Randall Harris with the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency described the implementation and operation of a Career CTC and how it is used for basic computer classes, summer GED programs, business applications, career planning, and much more.

James Smith with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) described the role of his office in the advancement of technology in education. In addition, he outlined some of the grants available to schools and the exciting new developments in the area of e-learning and interactive web learning tools.

Lessons Learned

✓ Community Technology Centers serve as a springboard.
✓ OSPI has grants and resources available to schools in the area of technology.

Issues to Think About

✓ Tribes need to actively persuade and help local school districts secure funds to develop and implement technology in schools.

Resources

✓ Northwest Indian Applied Research
  Institute: http://www.evergreen.edu/nwindian/projectseconomic.html
✓ OSPI Tech Page: http://www.k12.wa.us/edtech/
✓ The Learning Space: http://www.learningspace.org/
✓ Washington State Consortium for
  Contextual Teaching and Learning: http://depts.washington.edu/wctl/index.htm

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IV. NEXT STEPS

A. TRIBAL TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

It is vitally important that a technology assessment be performed at each tribe. It is difficult to address funding or policy issues without a clear roadmap of what is needed among the tribes. The assessments would need to address some of the following subject areas:

Infrastructure
- ✓ Current hardware/software inventory of tribal government and tribal member's homes
- ✓ Current uses of technology within tribal government and tribal member's homes
- ✓ Connectivity options

Governmental and Community Needs
- ✓ Technology priorities
- ✓ Community priorities

Education and Training
- ✓ Current technology IQ of staff and community
- ✓ Training programs needed

Identification of Barriers to Success
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Connectivity access
- ✓ Community support
- ✓ Inadequate legislation or state/federal policies
- ✓ Vision for how technology can assist the tribe

B. LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

To resolve problems associated with the "Digital Divide," it may be necessary for tribes to pursue legislative options. At the very least, it will most likely require intense lobbying of state and federal agencies to develop and comply with policies that improve technology access for American Indian tribes. Some options should include:

Access
- ✓ Have the FCC form an Indian desk to develop and address tribal communication issues
- ✓ Implement legislation to require that utilities grant access to tribal reservations
- ✓ Support economic development bills that encourage technology development

C. MISCELLANEOUS IDEAS

- ✓ Networks to share technology idea
- ✓ Networks for natural resource staff
- ✓ Clearinghouse for tribal technology grants

V. TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

An interactive tribal technology use poll was conducted at the conference by Jolene Atencio, a Warm Springs Tribal member.   The survey results point out that:

❖ Better educated and affluent tribal members have adopted computer- and telecommunications-based (Internet and Web) technologies. The respondents to the survey represent the affluent side of the digital divide.

❖ Tribes are adopting technologies in the operation of their tribal enterprises. This may be in part as a result of the business community adopting technologies into the framework of standard business practices.

❖ Tribal governments may be slower in adapting technology to their civic affairs, but adoption is happening.

VI. APPENDIX

A. CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Name Ray Abrahamson
Address 1118 E. 12th Ave #2
Tribe/Agency ATNI-EDC
City, State Zip Spokane, WA 99202
Phone (509) 951-5710
Email ray@atniedc.com
Fax (206) 542-4096

Name Andrea Alexander
Address P.O. Box 40909
Tribe/Agency Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-0909
Phone (360) 753-2411
Email andreagoto@hotmail.com
Fax (360) 586-3653

Name Jeremy Anderson
Address 11705 Center Rd, Unit B
Tribe/Agency Electronic Education
City, State Zip Everett, WA 98204
Phone (425) 513-1426
Email jeremy.anderson@electroniced.com
Fax (425) 513-9496

Name Patricia Christine Aqiimuk
Address 2522 Kwina Road
Tribe/Agency Northwest Indian College
City, State Zip Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone (360) 392-4303
Email ppaull@nwic.edu
Fax

Name Jolene Atencio
Address P.O. Box 1357
Tribe/Agency Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
City, State Zip Warm Springs, OR 97761
Phone Fax
Email jatencio@wstribes.org

Name Janice Babcock
Address N 80 Tibal Center Road
Tribe/Agency Skokomish Tribe
City, State Zip Shelton, WA 98584
Phone (360) 426-4232
Email janiceb@skokomish.org
Fax (360) 877-5943

Name Karen Bailor
Address 1835 Black Lake Blvd
Tribe/Agency Department of Agriculture
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98584
Phone (360) 704-7704
Email karen.bailor@wa.usda.gov
Fax (360) 704-7742

Name Dr. George Baldwin
Address 100 Campus Center
Tribe/Agency CSU-MB
City, State Zip Seaside, CA 93955
Phone Fax
Email george_baldwin@csumb.edu

Name Adam Barrell
Address 3830 W. Sequim Bay Rd
Tribe/Agency Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
City, State Zip Sequim, WA 98382
Phone Fax
Email Abarrell@jamestowntribe.org

Name Johnson Bastian
Address P.O. Box 189
Tribe/Agency Quinault Nation
City, State Zip Taholah, WA 98587
Phone (360) 276-8211
Email
Fax

Name Kathy Becker
Address 1212 Minor Ave
Tribe/Agency The Bullitt Foundation
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98101-2825
Phone 206-343-0807
Email kbecker@bullitt.org
Fax 206-343-0822

Name	Address	Tribe/Agency	City, State Zip	Email	Phone	Fax
Peter Berliner	505 5th Ave S, Ste 900	Paul Allen Foundation	Seattle, WA 98104			
John Boyd III	2851 Lower Elwha Rd	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Port Angeles, WA 98363	jboyd@elwha.nsn.us		
Marie Breckenridge	P.O. Box 498	SuquamishTribe	Suquamish, WA 98392-0498	mbreckenridge@suquamish.nsn.us		
Lisa Breckenridge	P.O. Box 638	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Pendleton, OR 97801	breck@ctuir.com	(541) 966-2193	(541) 276-3263
Virginia BringsYellow	P.O. Box 189	Quinault Nation	Taholah, WA 98587	vbringsyellow@quinault.org		
Betty Buckley	120 State Ave, NE #224	Stone Soup	Olympia, WA 98501	nwstone.soup@msn.com	360-705-2961	360-705-3990
Pearl Capoeman-Baller	P.O. Box 189	Quinault Nation	Taholah, WA 98587	pballer@quinault.org		
Shirley Charley	P.O. Box 150	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Nespelem, WA 99155	patti.davis@colvilletribes.com	(509) 634-2207	(509) 634-4116
Tina Cohen	P.O. Box 42525	Office of Trade and Economic Development	Olympia, WA 98504-2525	tinac@cted.wa.gov	360-725-4051	360-586-0873
Scott Cooper	P.O. Box 217	Samish Tribe	Anacortes, WA 98221	scooper@samishtribe.nsn.us	(360) 293-6404	
David Cort	7730 36th Ave NW	Tulalip Elementary	Marysville, WA 98271	david_cort@msv1.wednet.edu	(360) 653-0650	(360) 658-9596
Kimberly Craven	P.O. Box 40909	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	Olympia, WA 98504-0909	kimberlyc@goia.wa.gov	(360) 753-2411	
Cherrie Crowell	P.O. Box 498	Suquamish Tribe	Suquamish, WA 98392-0498	ccrowell@suquamish.nsn.us	(360) 394-5340	(360) 586-3653
Bud Denny		Makah Tribe		mtcbud@olypen.com		

Name	Address	Tribe/Agency	City, State Zip	Phone	Email	Fax
	P.O. Box 115		Neah Bay, WA 98357	(360) 645-2201		
Bob Deshaye	P.O. Box 42445	Department of Information Systems	Olympia, WA 98504-2445	(360) 902-3336	bobd@dis.wa.gov	
Ryan Dicks	915 2nd Ave, Ste 3206	Senator Cantwell's Office	Seattle, WA 98174	(206) 220-6400	ryan.dicks@cantwell.senate.gov	
Philip Dorn	31912 Little Boston Rd	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Kingston, WA 98436	(360) 297-6247	phil@pgst.nsn.us	(360) 297-6318
Jessica Dorr	P.O. Box 23550	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Seattle, WA 98102	(206) 709-3351	jessica@gatesfoundation.org	(206) 709-3501
Lucy Dorsey	3830 W. Sequim Bay Rd.	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Sequim, WA 98382	(360) 683-2025	ldorsey@jamestowntribe.org	(360) 683-9583
Terry Edvalson	P.O. Box 3264	ATNI-EDC	La Grande, OR 97850	(541) 962-7023	tedvalso@uwtc.net	(541) 972-0403
Donner Ellsworth		Spokane Tribal Community College	,		donnere@spokanecampus.org	
Dr. William Erdly	6700 Totem Beach Road	Tulalip Tribes	Marysville, WA 98270			
Valerie Fast Horse	850 A Street	Coeur D'Alene Tribe	Plummer, ID 83851		vjfasthorse@cdatribe.com	
Luanne Ferguson	P.O. Box 100	Spokane Tribe	Wellpinit, WA 99040	(509) 258-4581	luannef@spokanetribe.com	(509) 258-9243
Lorrie Flett	P.O. Box 100	Spokane Tribe	Wellpinit, WA 99040	(509) 258-4581	lorrief@spokanetribe.com	
Sheryl Fryberg	7730 36th Ave NW	Tulalip Elementary	Marysville, WA 98271			
Ray Fryberg	7730 36th Ave NW	Tulalip Elementary	Marysville, WA 98271			

Name	Address	Tribe/Agency	City, State Zip	Phone	Email	Fax
Misty Fuller	2522 Kwina Road	Northwest Indian College	Bellingham, WA 98226	(360) 392-4239	mfuller@nwic.edu	
Dave Fuller	31912 Little Boston Rd NE	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Kingston, WA 98346	(360) 297-2646	dfuller@pgst.nsn.us	
Pat Gans	3439 Stoluckquamish Lane	Stillaguamish Tribe	Arlington, WA 98223	(360) 652-7362	ganspat@hotmail.com	
Art George	P.O Box 157	Nooksack Tribe	Deming, WA 98244	(360) 592-5176	ageorge1600@aol.com	
Dan Gleason	P.O. Box 536	Chehalis Confederated Tribes	Oakville, WA 98586	(360) 273-5911	dgleason@chehalistribe.org	(360) 273-5914
Felipe Gonzales	P.O. Box 1299	Camas Institute	Airway Heights, WA 99001	(509) 343-4147	felipe@camasinstitute.com	
Rebel Harjo	2522 Kwina Rd	Northwest Indian College	Bellingham, WA 98226	(360) 392-4295	rharjo@nwic.edu	(360) 676-0475
Randell Harris	122 W. Cota St	South Puget Inter-Tribal Planning Agency	Shelton, WA 98584	(360) 426-2433	Randell@spipa.org	
Robert Hartley	2327 Grand Ave	NoaNet	Wenatchee, WA 98802	(509) 886-1488	rhartley@noanet.net	(509) 884-8614
John Hartman	850 A Street	Coeur D'Alene Tribe	Plummer, ID 83851	(208) 686-8402	hartmanj@cdatribe.org	(208) 686-1901
Marie Hebert	31912 Little Boston Rd	Port Gamble S'Klallam	Kingston, WA 98436	(360) 297-2646		
Russ Hepfer	2851 Lower Elwha Rd	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Port Angeles, WA 98363		rhepfer@elwha.nsn.us	
Jerry Hines	P.O. Box 353	Zebra Computers and Coffee	Centralia, WA 98531			
Buffy Hines		Umatilla Tribes				

Field	Value
Address	P.O. Box 638
City, State Zip	Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone	(541) 276-3873
Email	nh@u.washington.edu
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Lyn Holder
Tribe/Agency	Wenatee Valley College
Address	P.O. Box 2058
City, State Zip	Omak, WA 98841
Phone	(509) 826-5394
Email	
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	John Hollowed
Tribe/Agency	NW Indian Fish Commission
Address	6730 Martin Way E
City, State Zip	Olympia, WA 98516
Phone	(206) 232-4875
Email	
Fax	(206) 232-4875

Field	Value
Name	Adrian Holm
Tribe/Agency	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Address	P.O. Box 150
City, State Zip	Nespelem, WA 99155
Phone	(509) 634-4711
Email	adrian.holm@colvilletribes.com
Fax	(509) 634-4116

Field	Value
Name	Michael Holroyd
Tribe/Agency	Chehalis Confederated Tribes
Address	720 Sleater-Kinnery Rd, SE
City, State Zip	Lacy, WA 98503
Phone	(360) 786-5445
Email	mholroyd@wsu.edu
Fax	(360) 455-1575

Field	Value
Name	David R. Hudson
Tribe/Agency	Hoh Tribe
Address	2464 Lower Hoh Road
City, State Zip	Forks, WA 98331
Phone	(360) 374-6582
Email	
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Denny Hurtado
Tribe/Agency	Skokomish Tribe
Address	N 80 Tribal Ctr Rd 98584
City, State Zip	Skokomish Indian Nation, WA
Phone	360-790-6065
Email	dhurtado@ospi.wednet.edu
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Walter Jackson
Tribe/Agency	Quileute Tribe
Address	P.O. Box 279
City, State Zip	LaPush, WA 98350
Email	wally@olypen.com
Phone	
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Jennifer James
Tribe/Agency	Tulalip Elementary
Address	7730 36th Ave NW
City, State Zip	Marysville, WA 98271
Email	
Phone	
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Pam James
Tribe/Agency	Culture2Culture
Address	P.O. Box 1388
City, State Zip	Shelton, WA 98584
Email	c2c@hctc.com
Phone	
Fax	

Field	Value
Name	Cheryl Johnson
Tribe/Agency	ATNI-EDC
Address	2563 Lummi Shore Rd
City, State Zip	Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone	(360) 752-7313
Email	cherylj@atniedc.com
Fax	(360) 752-4067

Name Becky Johnston
Address 2717 65th St
Tribe/Agency RD Johnston Government Affairs
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98346
Phone (206) 788-9504
Email rdjohnstongovaffairs@hotmail.com
Fax (206) 788-9690

Name Colleen Jollie
Address P.O. Box 47318
Tribe/Agency Department of Transportation
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-7318
Phone
Email jolliec@wsdot.wa.gov
Fax

Name Mike Jolly
Address P.O. Box 189
Tribe/Agency Quinault Nation
City, State Zip Taholah, WA 98587
Phone (360) 276-8211
Email mjolly@quinault.org
Fax (360) 276-4191

Name Jamachia Keeline
Address 7730 36th Ave NW
Tribe/Agency Tulalip Elementary
City, State Zip Marysville, WA 98271
Phone
Email
Fax

Name Jennifer Khow
Address SE 3127
Tribe/Agency Evergreen State College - Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98505
Phone (360) 867-6614
Email khowj@evergreen.edu
Fax

Name James Kim
Address 2101 Fourth Avenue, Ste. 400
Tribe/Agency Access to Justice Technology Project
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98121-2330
Phone (206) 727-8262
Email jamesk@wsba.org
Fax (206) 727-8320

Name Renee Klosterman
Address P.O. Box 42445
Tribe/Agency Department of Information Services
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-2445
Phone (360) 407-0609
Email reneek@dis.wa.gov
Fax

Name Shelly Lacy
Address 6700 Totem Beach Road
Tribe/Agency Tulalip Tribes
City, State Zip Marysville, WA 98270
Phone
Email slacy@tulalipeducationcenter.com
Fax

Name Ellen Langley
Address P.O. Box 42445
Tribe/Agency Department of Information Systems
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-2445
Phone (360) 902-3567
Email ellenl@dis.wa.gov
Fax

Name Wes Lannen
Address P.O. Box 2497
Tribe/Agency Department of Agriculture
City, State Zip Battle Ground, WA 98604
Phone (360) 666-2741
Email wlannen@pacifier.com
Fax

Name Dick Larman
Address P.O. Box 42525
Tribe/Agency Office of Trade and Economic Development
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-2525
Phone
Email dickl@cted.wa.gov
Fax

Name Greg Law
Address P.O. Box 189
Tribe/Agency Quinault Nation
City, State Zip Taholah, WA 98587
Phone
Email glaw@quinault.org
Fax

Name	Tribe/Agency	Phone	Email	Address	City, State Zip	Fax
Donna Lucas	ATNI-EDC	(206) 542-5115	donnalucas@atniedc.com	18130 Midvale Ave N, Ste C	Shoreline, WA 98133	(206) 542-4096
Lennea Magnus	Chehalis Confederated Tribes	(360) 273-5911	lmagnus@chehalistribe.org	P.O. Box 536	Oakville, WA 98568	
Ray Maldonado	Bureau of Indian Affairs	(360) 533-9100		P.O. Box 48	Aberdeen, WA 98520	
Trudy Marcellay	DSHS	(360) 664-0322	marcetl@dshs.wa.gov	P.O. Box 45710	Olympia, WA 98504-7510	
Mike Marchand	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	(509) 634-2218	mike.marchand@colvilletribes.com	P.O. Box 150	Nespelem, WA 99155	(509) 634-4116
Amy Markishtum	Makah/Seattle Public Schools	(206) 527-6556	webmaster@seattleschools.org	9714 Wallingford Ave N	Seattle, WA 98103	
Greg Marney	NoaNet	(509) 886-1488	gmarney@noanet.net	2327 Grand Ave	Wenatchee, WA 98802	(509) 884-8614
Allen McClosky	Makah Tribe	(360) 645-2201		P.O. Box 115	Neah Bay, WA 98357	
John McCoy	Tulalip Tribes	(360) 651-4000		6700 Totem Beach Road	Marysville, WA 98270-9694	
Randell McCoy	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	(360) 452-8471	rem@elwha.nsn.us	2851 Lower Elwha Rd	Port Angeles, WA 98363	
Emma R. Medicine White Crow	Washington Health Foundation	(206) 216-2865	emmac@whf.org	300 Elliott Ave W, Ste 300	Seattle, WA 98119	(206) 283-6122
Jerry Meninick	Yakama Nation	(509) 865-5121	jerry@yakama.com	P.O. Box 151	Toppenish, WA 98948	

Name Mike Messenger
Address 6730 Martin Way E
Tribe/Agency Northwest Indian Fish Commission **Email** news300@dshs.wa.gov
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98516 **Phone** (360) 902-7933 **Fax**

Name Sharon Newcom
Address P.O. Box 45710
Tribe/Agency DSHS **Email**
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-7510 **Phone** **Fax**

Name Rod Obi
Address P.O. Box 189
Tribe/Agency Quinault Nation **Email** robi@quinault.org
City, State Zip Taholah, WA 98587 **Phone** **Fax**

Name Dorothy Obi
Address P.O. Box 279
Tribe/Agency Quileute Tribe **Email** dorothyobi@hotmail.com
City, State Zip LaPush, WA 98350 **Phone** (360) 374-4271 **Fax**

Name Frank Ordway
Address 1080 West Ewing Place, Suite 300
Tribe/Agency NPower **Email** franko@npowerseattle.org
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98119 **Phone** (206) 286-8880 **Fax**

Name Robert Ozuna
Address 3240 Fort Road
Tribe/Agency UW-Yakima Valley Community Partnership **Email** rozuna@u.washington.edu
City, State Zip Toppenish, WA 98948 **Phone** (509) 865-8672 **Fax**

Name Abel Paco-James
Address 7730 36th Ave NW
Tribe/Agency Tulalip Elementary **Email**
City, State Zip Marysville, WA 98271 **Phone** **Fax**

Name Patricia Paul
Address 2522 Kwina Rd
Tribe/Agency Northwest Indian College **Email** ppaul@nwic.edu
City, State Zip Bellingham, WA 98226 **Phone** (360) 392-4303 **Fax** (360) 676-0475

Name Lisa Pemberton-Butler
Address P.O. Box 40909
Tribe/Agency Governor's Office of Indian Affairs **Email** lisap@goia.wa.gov
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-0909 **Phone** (360) 753-2411 **Fax** (360) 586-3653

Name Barb Penn
Address 2464 Lower Hoh Road
Tribe/Agency Hoh Tribe **Email** bspenn@hotmail.com
City, State Zip Forks, WA 98331 **Phone** **Fax**

Name Rich Peone
Address P.O. Box 100
Tribe/Agency Spokane Tribe **Email** tigerp@spokanetribe.com
City, State Zip Wellpinit, WA 99040 **Phone** (509) 258-4581 **Fax** (509) 258-9243

Name Heather Peters
Address P.O. Box 40909
Tribe/Agency Governor's Office of Indian Affairs **Email** heatherp@goia.wa.gov
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-0909 **Phone** (360) 753-2411 **Fax** (360) 586-3653

Name Margarita Prentice
Tribe/Agency Senator
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-0411
Address P.O. Box 40411
Email prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov
Phone (360) 786-7616
Fax (360) 786-7450

Name John Pugh
Tribe/Agency Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
City, State Zip Darrington, WA 98241
Address 5318 Chief Brown Lane
Email jpugh@microsoft.com
Phone (360) 436-0131
Fax (360) 436-1511

Name Tracey Rascon
Tribe/Agency ATNI-EDC
City, State Zip Neah Bay, WA 98357
Address P.O. Box 506
Email traceyr@atniedc.com
Phone (360) 645-2477
Fax (206) 542-4096

Name Glenn Raymond
Tribe/Agency Camas Institute
City, State Zip Airway Heights, WA 99001
Address P.O. Box 1299
Email glenn@camasinstitute.com
Phone (509) 343-4118
Fax

Name Bill Reller
Tribe/Agency Skokomish Tribe
City, State Zip Union, WA 98592
Address 473 E Hyland Dr
Email w_reller@yahoo.com
Phone (360) 898-1096
Fax

Name Patrick Ritter
Tribe/Agency Snoqualmie Tribe
City, State Zip Fall City, WA 98024
Address P.O. Box 670
Email fcfc@wahealth.net
Phone (425) 222-6900
Fax

Name Roy Sahali
Tribe/Agency UW-Tribal Connections Project
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98195-7155
Address University of Washington Box 35
Email rs@u.washington.edu
Phone **Fax**

Name Jennifer Scott
Tribe/Agency TESC
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98505
Address NIARI TESC SEM 3022 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Email scottj@evergreen.edu
Phone (360) 867-6889
Fax (360) 867-6553

Name Sheryl Scott
Tribe/Agency Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
City, State Zip Kingston, WA 98436
Address 31912 Little Boston Rd
Email sawalla@pgst.nsn.us
Phone (360) 297-2646
Fax

Name Link Shadley
Tribe/Agency Oregon Economic and Community Development
City, State Zip Astoria, OR 97103
Address P.O. Box 976
Email lshadley@seasurf.com
Phone (503) 986-0046
Fax (503) 224-2102

Name Peter Sheldrup
Tribe/Agency Northwest Indian College
City, State Zip Bellingham, WA 98226
Address 2522 Kwina Rd
Email psheldrup@nwic.edu
Phone (360) 392-4339
Fax (360) 733-3895

Name Brent Simcosky
Tribe/Agency DSHS
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504
Address P.O. Box 45857
Email simcodb@dshs.wa.gov
Phone (360) 413-3336
Fax (360) 413-3123

Name Jeff Skinner
Address P.O. Box 2148
Tribe/Agency PUD3
City, State Zip Shelton, WA 98584
Email Jeffs@masonpud3.org
Phone **Fax**

Name James Smith
Address P.O. Box 47200
Tribe/Agency Superintendent of Public Instruction
City, State Zip Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Email jlsmith@ospi.wednet.edu
Phone **Fax**

Name Judith Smith
Address P.O. Box 536
Tribe/Agency Chehalis Confederated Tribes
City, State Zip Oakville, WA 98586
Email jsmith@chehalistribe.org
Phone (360) 273-5911 **Fax** (360) 273-5914

Name Lawrence Spotted-Bird
Address 1450 114th Ave SE
Tribe/Agency N-Link Corp
City, State Zip Bellevue, WA 98004
Email lspottedbird@nlink.net
Phone (425) 864-1953 **Fax**

Name Carolyn St. James
Address P.O. Box 130
Tribe/Agency Shoalwater Bay Tribe
City, State Zip Tokeland, WA 98590
Email **Phone** **Fax**

Name Gene Terry
Address P.O. Box 189
Tribe/Agency Quinault Nation
City, State Zip Taholah, WA 98587
Email gterry@quinault.org
Phone (360) 276-8211 **Fax** (360) 276-4191

Name Ken Thompson
Address P.O. Box 23550
Tribe/Agency Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
City, State Zip Seattle, WA 98102
Email ken@gatesfoundation.org
Phone (206) 709-3568 **Fax** (206) 709-3501

Name Caroline Tillier
Address 18130 Midvale Ave N, Ste C
Tribe/Agency ATNI-EDC
City, State Zip Shoreline, WA 98133
Email caroline@atniedc.com
Phone (206) 542-5115 **Fax** (206) 542-4096

Name Grant Timentwa
Address P.O. Box 150
Tribe/Agency Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
City, State Zip Nespelem, WA 99155
Email **Phone** **Fax**

Name Dave Tovey
Address 1793 Waite St. #2
Tribe/Agency ATNI-EDC
City, State Zip North Bend, OR 97459
Email dave_tovey@hotmail.com
Phone (206) 542-5115 **Fax** (206) 542-4096

Name Bill Trailor
Address 5318 Chief Brown Lane
Tribe/Agency Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
City, State Zip Darrington, WA 98241
Email drancis@sauk-suiattle.com
Phone (360) 436-0131 **Fax** (360) 436-1511

Name Joe Turrey
Address 2851 Lower Elwha Rd
Tribe/Agency Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
City, State Zip Port Angeles, WA 98363
Email jturrey@elwha.nsn.us
Phone **Fax**

Name	Nathan Tyler	Email	ntyler@olypen.com
Tribe/Agency	Makah Tribe	Phone	(360) 645-3231 **Fax**
Address	P.O. Box 115		
City, State Zip	Neah Bay, WA 98357		

Name	Mark Ufkes	Email	markufkes@atniedc.com
Tribe/Agency	ATNI-EDC	Phone	(206) 542-5115 **Fax** (206) 542-4096
Address	18130 Midvale Ave N, Ste C		
City, State Zip	Shoreline, WA 98133		

Name	Vanessa Vazquez	Email	vazquez27van@hotmail.com
Tribe/Agency	Quileute Tribe	Phone	(360) 374-4271 **Fax**
Address	P.O. Box 279		
City, State Zip	LaPush, WA 98350		

Name	Sheila Joyce Walker	Email	swalker@fs.fed.us
Tribe/Agency	Forest Service	Phone	(360) 953-2298 **Fax** (360) 956-2330
Address	1835 SW Black Lake Blvd		
City, State Zip	Olympia, WA 98512		

Name	Emily Washines	Email	Emily.Washines@GOV.WA.GOV
Tribe/Agency	Governor's Office	Phone	(360) 753-6780 **Fax**
Address	P.O. Box 40002		
City, State Zip	Olympia, WA 98504-0002		

Name	Stella Washines	Email	
Tribe/Agency	Yakama Nation	Phone	(509) 865-5121 **Fax** (509) 865-4333
Address	P.O. Box 151		
City, State Zip	Toppenish, WA 98948		

Name	Sandra Western-Butler	Email	swb@b2b-gov.com
Tribe/Agency	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Phone	(360) 683-2025 **Fax** (360) 683-9583
Address	3830 W. Sequim Bay Rd.		
City, State Zip	Sequim, WA 98382		

Name	Mitzie Whitener	Email	mwhitener@squaxin.nsn.us
Tribe/Agency	Squaxin Island Tribe	Phone	360-426-9781 **Fax** 360-426-6577
Address	SE 70 Squaxin Lane		
City, State Zip	Shelton, WA 98584		

Name	Tuck Wilson	Email	tuckw@dis.wa.gov
Tribe/Agency	Department of Information Systems	Phone	(360) 902-3041 **Fax**
Address	P.O. Box 42445		
City, State Zip	Olympia, WA 98504-2445		

Name	Steve Wintermute	Email	
Tribe/Agency	NW Inter-Tribal Court System	Phone	**Fax**
Address	144 Railroad Ave, Ste 302		
City, State Zip	Edmonds, WA 98020		

Name	Russell Woodruff	Email	
Tribe/Agency	Quileute Tribe	Phone	**Fax**
Address	P.O. Box 279		
City, State Zip	LaPush, WA 98350		

Name	Madonna Yawakie	Email	mpy@turtleislandcom.com
Tribe/Agency	Ticom, Inc	Phone	(763) 424-6257 **Fax**
Address	2513 94th Ave N		
City, State Zip	Brooklyn Park, MN 55444		

Name	Wambli Zephier	Email	wambliz@goia.wa.gov
Tribe/Agency	Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	Phone	(360) 753-2411 **Fax** (360) 586-3653
Address	P.O. Box 40909		
City, State Zip	Olympia, WA 98504-0909		

CONFERENCE VENDORS

Washington Health Foundation: www.whf.org

Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council: www.infrafunding.wa.gov

Northwest Basketweavers Association

ATNI – Economic Development Corporation: http://www.atnitribes.org/edctelc.html

UW – Tribal Connections Project: http://www.tribalconnections.org/

Electronic Education http://www.electroniced.com/

Department of Information Services: http://www.wa.gov/dis/index.htm

Northwest Indian College: www.nwic.edu

Mason County PUD: http://www.masonpud3.org/

NoaNet: http://www.noanet.net/index.html